I write to attest to the importance and enormous usefulness of the special acquisitions from special funding that you have made at my request in the field of Imperial Russian History, and especially legal history and the study of Russia’s criminal justice system. These acquisitions have been and continue to be an unusually helpful resource for our graduate students and faculty in the Russian and East European area. To be more specific, you have located at my request and acquired on microfiche the leading law journals and newspapers of late Imperial Russia (including *Pravo*, *Iuridicheskii vestnik*, and the Journal of the Ministry of Justice), enabling several of our graduate students to complete the non-archival phase of their dissertation research prior to going to Russia, which in turn means that they can devote themselves almost entirely to archival research while they are over there. Similarly, by the same means you have been able to acquire for our use the missing issues of the fundamentally important Russian newspaper *Sankt peterburgskii vedomosti*, for which we now for the first time have a complete run from 1837-1913 as well as a substantial portion of issues for the earlier years. This newspaper is essential for the study of almost every conceivable topic in Imperial Russian history, and is not available anywhere else on the West Coast. In short, all these acquisitions have been enormously helpful to our program, our students, and our faculty, and I am extremely grateful to you and to the Chancellor for making this possible. 9/18/00  
[Reginald E. Zelnik, Dept. of History]